

Minutes of the Managed Risk Medical Insurance Board's (MRMIB's)  
Mental Health (MH) Liaison Workgroup Meeting  
Friday, October 19, 2007

Present:

Michelle Woods-CDMH, Brenda Kaplan-Blue Shield of California,  
Renee Mota-Jackson, BQM Division Manager and Sarah Swaney - Research  
Program Specialist, MRMIB Benefits and Quality Monitoring Division

Via phone:

HFP Plan Representatives: Gisela Gomez - CalOptima, Pamela Hawkins -  
Community Health Plan, Yunkyung Kim - CalOptima, Gary Melton - Inland  
Empire Health Plan (IEHP), Sharon Ostach - Blue Cross, Scott Sangsland -  
Kaiser Permanente, Rogelio Lopez - Health Net, Sue Smith - Blue  
Cross/Wellpoint, Anne Watkins - Kern Health Systems, Tom Woodruff - Pacific  
Care Behavioral Health, Shannon Hill, Carla Phillips - UHC

County Mental Health Representatives:

Dr. Don Kingdon - CMHDA, Carol Jablonicky - Ventura County, Rocio Ortega -  
Mendocino County.

I. Introductions:

Sarah Swaney started off introductions by introducing herself as she is new to  
the Benefits and Quality Monitoring Division. Renee Mota-Jackson introduced  
herself as the Manager of the BQM Demonstration Projects and Appeals Unit  
Manager.

II. Update on Macias Contract: The Macias Contract is still pending approval.

III. Focus and Sub Groups: One focus of interest is eating disorders (compulsive  
overeating, bulimia, anorexia) and mental health. Expertise on these disorders is  
rare, so this will take some research if we choose to follow up on this. There was  
some interest in a focus group on the pharmacy issue. One individual noted that  
they do not have prescription payment issues as they block the patient's benefit  
card.

One question was – can we take time during the quarterly meetings for focus  
groups to meet?

**Action Item:** Explore focus group ideas, participation needed and usage of  
meeting time for focus groups in upcoming meetings.

#### IV. Follow-up to Previous Discussion Items:

A) Mental Health Brochure – Ruben (the former MRMIB Benefits Specialist) received no input since the June, 2007 MH Workgroup meeting. Ruben requested that comments be emailed to him so that a mock-up could be made.

**Action Item:** Some individuals had not received the brochure, so MRMIB will send it out again so the individuals can provide suggestions and comments.

B) Dispute resolution – There was some discussion about what to do when a child with mental health needs referred to the county for a SED diagnosis is deemed by the county as not meeting SED criteria.

One individual noted that there is recourse and that the MOUs address dispute resolution. Are MOU's clear? Is there a common understanding?

**Action item:** MRMIB will be issuing a policy letter on this subject.

#### V. Review of How Plans Flex Benefits

Per the 2006 Fact Sheet Summary, 18 plans allow for substitution of mental health benefits. One plan does not, one plan was not clear. For most it is:

1 inpatient day: 3 days day treatment

1 inpatient day: 3 days residential treatment

1 inpatient day: 4 outpatient visit

**Action Item:** MRMIB to report back on whether the 2007 Fact Sheets reflect any changes.

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#### VI. Patient's Rights to Refuse SED Evaluation

One individual noted that parents are not allowed to refuse an evaluation and that the family is not supposed to refuse county SED services.

#### IV. New Items:

Work on parity issues in future meetings.